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“Nothing is more clearly written in the Book of Destiny, than the Emancipation of the Blacks; and it is equally certain that the two races will never live in a state of equal freedom under the same government, so insurmountable are the barriers which nature, habit and opinion have established between them.”

JEFFERSON.

LATEST FROM LIBERIA.

WE have deferred the issue of our present Number in anticipation of the arrival of the Liberia Packet, which we have daily expected since the beginning of the present month; and we should still defer it, were we not in possession of dates which render it almost certain that she will not be in this port before the middle of February.

The Brig Hollander, of Providence, arrived in New York on the 18th inst., bringing advices from Monrovia of the 20th of November, and from Cape Palmas of the 10th of the same month. The character of our Cape Palmas despatches is not so favorable as usual. There has been some sickness in the Colony, but few deaths, and none among the emigrants by the first voyage of the Packet, whom the Colonial physician, Dr. Fletcher, reports as all entirely free from the acclimating fever and doing well.

Gov. Russwurm had been quite indisposed, but was again well, on the sailing of the Hollander. There had also been some misunderstanding between the acting superintendant or presiding elder of the Methodist Mission at Cape Palmas, and one of his employees, which resulted in a suit in court, causing much unnecessary excitement and speculation; but we doubt not the palaver will be set, long before we hear from the Colony again. The Hollander also brought intelligence of the loss of our Colonial schooner, the Cavally, with cargo on board estimated at \$5,000—officers and crew all saved. The schooner itself will be a dead loss to the Colony, of near \$5,000, but we cannot believe the value of her cargo approached that amount.

The Hollander left Monrovia on the 20th November, at which date the Liberia Packet had not been heard from, although she had then been out from Cape Henry 68 days. The conclusion is irresistible, that some accident has happened to her. She must have suffered some injury in her sails, rigging or hull, that has disabled her or impeded her progress. We cannot believe her lost. She was staunch and strong, well manned and quite a number of good sailors on board, exclusive of her crew. We shall wait further advices with the utmost anxiety.

We received but one paper from the Colony, the Luminary of the 10th of November, from which we make the following extract.

LIST OF SLAVERS CAPTURED BY BRITISH CRUISERS FROM JAN. 1827, TO OCT. 1847,—FURNISHED REV. J. B. BENHAM, BY WM. A. PARKER, OF H. B. M. SLOOP OF WAR FAVORITE.

On 20th June, off Lagos, schooner Prince, by H. B. M. Sloop Hound, with cargo only.

On the 24th June, off Cape Lopez, Brig Ferret, equipped for slaves.

On 27th June, off Lagos, schooner Emperandador, with 608 slaves, of which, 105 died on the passage to Sierra Leone. Captured by H. B. M. Sloop Albatross and steamer Grappler.

On July 1st, schooner Fiesca, by H. M. Sloop Hound.

On July 2d, a brig, name unknown, by H. B. M. Sloop Wanderer.

On 16th July, Brig Emperor, with 419 slaves, by H. M. Frigate Action.

On 30th July, off Benguela, brig, name unknown, with 319 slaves, by H. M. Sloop Contest.

On 1st August, brig Juliana, with 198 slaves, by H. M. Sloop Sea Lark.

On the 3d of August, a brig, name not mentioned, by H. M. Sloops Repia and Waterwitch.

On 25th August, off Gallenas, a schooner by H. M. Sloop Mariner.

The above slavers were all under the Brazillian Flag; accounts were received of several other captures, and some others being run on shore.

CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.

IN CONVENTION.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

WE the representatives of the people of the Commonwealth of Liberia, in Convention assembled, invested with authority for forming a new government, relying upon the aid and protection of the Great Arbiter of human events, do hereby, in the name and on behalf of the people of this Commonwealth, publish and declare the said Commonwealth a FREE, SOVEREIGN AND INDEPENDENT STATE, by the name and title of the REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.

While announcing to the nations of the world the new position which the people of this Republic have felt themselves called upon to assume, courtesy to their opinion seems to demand a brief accompanying statement of the causes which induced them, first to expatriate themselves from the land of their nativity and to form settlements on this barbarous coast, and now to organize their government by the assumption of a sovereign and independent character. Therefore we respectfully ask their attention to the following facts.

We recognize in all men, certain natural and inalienable rights: among these, are life, liberty, and the right to acquire, possess, enjoy and defend property. By the practice and consent of men in all ages, some system or form of government is proven to be necessary to exercise, enjoy and secure these rights; and every people has a right to institute a government and to choose and adopt that system or form of it, which in their opinion will most effectually accomplish these objects, and secure their happiness, which does not interfere with the just rights of others. The right therefore to institute government, and to all the powers necessary to conduct it, is, an inalienable right, and cannot be resisted without the grossest injustice.

We the people of the Republic of Liberia were originally the inhabitants of the United States of North America.

In some parts of that country, we were debarred by law from all the rights and privileges of men—in other parts, public sentiment, more powerful than law, frowned us down.

We were every where shut out from all civil office. We were excluded from all participation in the government. We were taxed without our consent. We were compelled to contribute to the resources of a country, which gave us no protection. We were made a separate and distinct class, and against us every avenue to improvement was effectually closed. Strangers from all lands of a color different from ours, were preferred before us. We uttered our complaints, but they were unattended to, or only met by alledging the peculiar institutions of the country.

All hope of a favourable change in our country was thus wholly extinguished in our bosoms, and we looked with anxiety abroad for some asylum from the deep degradation.

The Western coast of Africa was the place selected by American benevolence and philanthropy, for our future home. Removed beyond those influences which depressed us in our native land, it was hoped we would be enabled to enjoy those rights and privileges, and exercise and improve those faculties, which the God of nature has given us in common with the rest of mankind.

Under the auspices of the American Colonization Society, we established ourselves here, on land acquired by purchase from the lords of the soil.

In an original compact with this Society, we, for important reasons delegated to it certain political powers; while this institution stipulated that whenever the people should become capable of conducting the government, or whenever the people should desire it, this institution would resign the delegated power, peaceably withdraw its supervision, and leave the people to the government of themselves.

Under the auspices and guidance of this institution, which has nobly and in perfect faith redeemed its pledges to the people, we have grown and prospered.

From time to time, our number has been increased by migration from America, and by accessions from native tribes; and from time to time, as circumstances required it, we have extended our borders by acquisition of land by honorable purchase from the natives of the country.

As our territory has extended, and our population increased, our commerce has also increased. The flags of most of the civilized nations of the earth float in our harbors, and their merchants are opening an honorable and profitable trade. Until recently, these visits have been of a uniformly harmonious character, but as they have become more frequent, and to more numerous points of our extending coast, questions have arisen, which it is supposed can be adjusted only by agreement between sovereign powers.

For years past, the American Colonization Society has virtually withdrawn from all direct and active part in the administration of the government, except in the appointment of the Governor, who is also a colonist, for the apparent purpose of testing the ability of the people to conduct the affairs of government, and no complaint of crude legislation, nor of mismanagement, nor of mal-administration has yet been heard.

In view of these facts, this institution, the American Colonization Society, with that good faith which has uniformly marked all its dealings with us, did, by a set of resolutions in January, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-Six, dissolve all political connexion with the people of this Republic, return the power with which it was delegated, and left the people to the government of themselves.

The people of the Republic of Liberia then, are of right, and in fact, a

free, sovereign and independent State ; possessed of all the rights, powers, and functions of government.

In assuming the momentous responsibilities of the position they have taken, the people of this Republic feel justified by the necessities of the case, and with this conviction they throw themselves with confidence upon the candid consideration of the civilized world.

Liberia is not the offspring of grasping ambition, nor the tool of avaricious speculation.

No desire for territorial aggrandizement brought us to these shores ; nor do we believe so sordid a motive entered into the high considerations of those who aided us in providing this asylum.

Liberia is an asylum from the most grinding oppression.

In coming to the shores of Africa, we indulge the pleasing hope that we would be permitted to exercise and improve those faculties, which impart to man his dignity—to nourish in our hearts the flame of honorable ambition, to cherish and indulge those aspirations which a Benificent Creator had implanted in every human heart, and to evince to all who despise, ridicule, and oppress our race, that we possess with them a common nature, are with them susceptible of equal refinement, and capable of equal advancement in all that adorns and dignifies man.

We were animated with the hope, that here we should be at liberty to train up our children in the way they should go—to inspire them with the love of an honorable fame, to kindle within them, the flame of a lofty philanthropy, and to form strong within them, the principles of humanity, virtue, and religion.

Among the strongest motives to leave our native land—to abandon forever the scenes of our childhood, and to sever the most endeared connexions was the desire for a retreat, where, free from the agitations of fear and molestation, we could, in composure and security approach in worship the God of our Fathers.

Thus far our highest hopes have been realized.

Liberia is already the happy home of thousands who were once the doomed victims of oppression, and if left unmolested to go on with her natural and spontaneous growth ; if her movements be left free from the paralyzing intrigues of jealous ambition and unscrupulous avarice, she will throw open a wider and yet a wider door for thousands, who are now looking with an anxious eye for some land of rest.

Our courts of justice are open equally to the stranger and the citizen for the redress of grievances, for the remedy of injuries, and for the punishment of crime.

Our numerous and well attended schools attest our efforts, and our desire for the improvement of our children.

Our churches for the worship of our Creator, every where to be seen, bear testimony to our piety, and to our acknowledgment of His Providence.

The native African bowing down with us before the altar of the living God, declare that from us, feeble as we are, the light of christianity has gone forth, while upon that curse of curses, the slave trade, a deadly blight has fallen as far as our influence extends.

Therefore in the name of humanity and virtue and religion—in the name of the Great God, our common Creator, and our common Judge, we appeal to the nations of christendom, and earnestly and respectfully ask of them, that they will regard us with the sympathy and friendly consideration, to which the peculiarities of our condition entitle us, and to extend to us that comity which marks the friendly intercourse of civilized and independent communities.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

The end of the institution, maintenance, and administration of government, is to secure the existence of the body politic, to protect it, and to furnish the individuals who compose it, with the power of enjoying, in safety and tranquility, their natural rights, and the blessings of life; and whenever these great objects are not obtained, the people have a right to alter the government and to take measures necessary for their safety, prosperity, and happiness.

Therefore, we the people of the Commonwealth of Liberia in Africa, acknowledging with devout gratitude the goodness of God, in granting to us the blessings of the christian religion, and political, religious and civil liberty, do, in order to secure these blessings for ourselves and our posterity, and to establish justice, insure domestic peace, and promote the general welfare, hereby solemnly associate and constitute ourselves a free, sovereign and independent state, by the name of the Republic of Liberia, and do ordain and establish this Constitution, for the government of the same.

Sec. 1. All men are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent and unalienable rights; among which, are the rights of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

Sec. 2. All power is inherent in the people; all free governments are instituted by their authority and for their benefit, and they have a right to alter and reform the same when their safety and happiness require it.

Sec. 3. All men have a natural and unalienable right to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences, without obstruction or molestation from others; all persons demeaning themselves peaceably, and not obstructing others in their religious worship, are entitled to the protection of law in the free exercise of their own religion, and no sect of christians shall have exclusive privileges or preference over any other sect, but all shall be alike tolerated; and no religious test whatever shall be required as a qualification for civil office, or the exercise of any civil right.

Sec. 4. There shall be no slavery within this Republic—nor shall any citizen of this Republic, or any person resident therein, deal in slaves, either within or without this Republic directly or indirectly.

Sec. 5. The people have a right at all times, in an orderly and peaceable manner, to assemble and consult upon the common good, to instruct their representatives, and to petition the government or any public functionaries for the redress of grievances.

Sec. 6. Every person injured shall have remedy therefor by due course of law; justice shall be done without denial or delay; and in all cases not arising under martial law or upon impeachment, the parties shall have a right to a trial by jury, and to be heard in person or by council, or both.

Sec. 7. No person shall be held to answer for a capital or infamous crime, except in cases of impeachment. Cases arising in the Army and Navy, and petty offences, unless upon presentiment by a grand jury; and every person criminally charged shall have a right to be seasonably furnished with a copy of the charge, to be confronted with the witnesses against him, to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favour; and to have a speedy public and impartial trial by a jury of the vicinity. He shall not be compelled to furnish or give evidence against himself, and no person shall for the same offence be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb.

Sec. 8. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, property, or privilege, but by the judgment of his peers, or the law of the land.

Sec. 9. No place shall be searched nor person seized, on a criminal charge or suspicion, unless, upon warrant lawfully issued, upon probable cause, supported by oath, or solemn affirmation, specially designating the place or person, and the object of the search.

Sec. 10. Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor excessive punishments inflicted; nor shall the legislature make any law impairing the obligation of contracts; nor any law rendering any act punishable, in any manner in which it was not punishable when it was committed.

Sec. 11. All elections shall be by ballot, and every male citizen, of twenty-one years of age, possessing real estate, shall have the right of suffrage.

Sec. 12. The people have a right to keep and to bear arms for the common defence. And as in time of peace, armies are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be maintained, without the consent of the legislature, and the military power shall always be held in exact subordination to the civil authority and be governed by it.

Sec. 13. Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation.

Sec. 14. The powers of this government shall be divided into three distinct departments, the Legislative, Executive and Judicial, and no person belonging to one of these departments, shall exercise any of the powers belonging to either of the others. This section is not to be construed to include Justices of the Peace.

Sec. 15. The liberty of the press is essential to the security of freedom in a state; it ought not, therefore, to be restrained in this Republic.

The press shall be free to every person, who undertakes to examine the proceedings of the legislature or any branch of government; and no law shall ever be made to restrain the rights thereof. The free communication of thoughts and opinions is one of the invaluable rights of man, and every citizen may freely speak, write and print on any subject, being responsible for the abuse of that liberty.

In prosecutions for the publication of papers, investigating the official conduct of officers, or men in a public capacity, or where the matter published is proper for public information, the truth thereof may be given in evidence. And in all indictments for libels, the jury shall have a right to determine the law and the facts, under the direction of the court, as in other cases.

Sec. 16. No subsidy, charge, impost, or duties ought to be established, fixed, laid or levied, under any pretext whatsoever, without the consent of the people, or their representatives in the legislature.

Sec. 17. Suits may be brought against the Republic in such manner, and in such cases as the legislature may, by law direct.

Sec. 18. No person can, in any case, be subjected to the law martial, or to any penalties or pains, by virtue of that law, (except those employed in the army or navy, and except the militia in actual service) but by the authority of the legislature.

Sec. 19. In order to prevent those who are vested with authority, from becoming oppressors, the people have a right at such periods and in such manner, as they shall establish by their frame of government, to cause their public officers to return to private life, and to fill up vacant places, by certain and regular elections and appointments.

Sec. 20. That all prisoners shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, unless,

for capital offences, when the proof is evident, or presumption great; and the privilege and benefit of the writ of habeas corpus shall be enjoyed in this Republic, in the most free, easy, cheap, expeditious and ample manner, and shall not be suspended by the legislature, except upon the most urgent and pressing occasions, and for a limited time, not exceeding twelve months.

ARTICLE II.—LEGISLATIVE POWERS.

Sec. 1. The Legislative power shall be vested in a Legislature of Liberia, and shall consist of two separate branches. A House of Representatives and a Senate, to be styled the Legislature of Liberia; each of which shall have a negative on the other, and the enacting style of their acts and laws, shall be, "It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled."

Sec. 2. The representatives shall be elected by and for the inhabitants of the several counties of Liberia, and shall be apportioned among the several counties of Liberia, as follows:—The county of Montserrado shall have four representatives, the county of Grand Bassa shall have three, and the county of Sinoe shall have one, and all counties hereafter which shall be admitted in the Republic shall have one representative, and for every ten thousand inhabitants, one representative shall be added. No person shall be a representative who has not resided in the county two whole years immediately previous to his election, and who shall not when elected, be an inhabitant of the county, and does not own real estate of not less value than one hundred and fifty dollars in the county in which he resides, and who shall not have attained the age of twenty-three years. The representatives shall be elected biennially, and shall serve two years from the time of their election.

Sec. 3. When a vacancy occurs in the representation of any county by death, resignation, or otherwise, it shall be filled by a new election.

Sec. 4. The House of Representatives shall elect their own speaker and other officers, they shall also have the sole power of impeachment.

Sec. 5. The Senate shall consist of two members from Montserrado county, two from Bassa county, two from Sinoe county, and two from each county which may be hereafter incorporated into this Republic. No person shall be a Senator who shall not have resided three whole years immediately previous to his election in the Republic of Liberia, and who shall not when elected be an inhabitant of the county which he represents, and who does not own real estate of not less value than two hundred dollars in the county which he represents, and who shall not have attained the age of twenty-five years. The Senator for each county who shall have the highest number of votes, shall retain his seat four years, and the one who shall have the next highest number of votes, two years and all who are afterwards elected to fill their seats, shall remain in office four years.

Sec. 6. The Senate shall try all impeachments; the Senators being first sworn, or solemnly affirmed to try the same impartially and according to law, and no person shall be convicted but by the concurrence of two-thirds of the Senators present. Judgment in such cases shall not extend beyond removal from office, and disqualification to hold an office in the Republic, but the party may still be tried at law for the same offence.

When either the President or Vice President is to be tried, the Chief Justice shall preside.

Sec. 7. It shall be the duty of the Legislature as soon as conveniently may be after the adoption of this Constitution, and once at least in every ten years afterwards, to cause a true census to be taken of each town and

county of the Republic of Liberia, and a representative shall be allowed every town having a population of ten thousand inhabitants, and for every additional ten thousand in the counties after the first census, one representative shall be added to that county until the number of representatives shall amount to thirty, afterwards one representative shall be added for every thirty thousand.

Sec. 8. Each branch of the legislature shall be judge of the election returns, and qualifications of its own members. A majority of each shall be necessary to transact business, but a less number may adjourn from day to day, and compel the attendance of absent members. Each house may adopt its own rules of proceeding, enforce order, and with the concurrence of two-thirds, may expel a member.

Sec. 9. Neither house shall adjourn for more than two days without the consent of the other; and both houses shall sit in the same town.

Sec. 10. Every bill or resolution which shall have passed both branches of the Legislature, shall, before it becomes a law, be laid before the President for his approval. If he approves, he shall sign it, if not, he shall return it to the Legislature with his objections—if the Legislature shall afterwards pass the bill or resolution by a vote of two-thirds in each branch, it shall become a law. If the President shall neglect to return such bill or resolution to the Legislature with his objections for five days after the same shall have been so laid before him—the Legislature remaining in session during that time, such neglect shall be equivalent to his signature.

Sec. 11. The Senators and Representatives shall receive from the Republic a compensation for their services, to be ascertained by law; and shall be privileged from arrest, except for treason, felony, or breach of the peace, while attending at, going to, or returning from the session of the Legislature.

ARTICLE III.—EXECUTIVE POWER.

Sec. 1. The Supreme Executive Power shall be vested in a President, who shall be elected by the people, and shall hold his office for the term of two years. He shall be Commander-in-Chief of the army and navy. He shall, in the recess of the Legislature, have power to call out the Militia or any part thereof, into actual service in defence of the Republic. He shall have power to make treaties, provided, the Senate concur therein, by a vote of two-thirds of the Senators present. He shall nominate, and with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint and Commission all Ambassadors and other public Ministers and Consuls, Secretaries of State, of War, of the Navy, and of the Treasury, Attorney General, all Judges of Courts, Sheriffs, Coroners, Marshals, Justices of the Peace, Clerks of Courts, Registers, Notaries Public, and all other officers of state, civil and military, whose appointment may not be otherwise provided for by the constitution, or by standing laws. And in the recess of the Senate, he may fill any vacancies in those offices, until the next session of the Senate. He shall receive all ambassadors and other public ministers. He shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed,—he shall inform the Legislature from time to time, of the condition of the Republic, and recommend any public measures for their adoption, which he may think expedient. He may, after conviction, remit any public forfeitures and penalties, and grant reprieves and pardons for public offences, except in cases of impeachment. He may require information and advice from any public officer, touching matters pertaining to his office. He may, on extraordinary occasions, convene the Legislature, and may adjourn the two houses whenever they cannot agree as to the time of adjournment.

Sec. 2. There shall be a Vice-President, who shall be elected in the same manner, and for the same term as that of the President, and whose qualifications shall be the same; he shall be President of the Senate, and give the casting vote when the house is equally divided on any subject. And in case of the removal of the President from office, or his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve on the Vice-President; and the Legislature may by law provide for the case of removal, death, resignation or inability both of the President and Vice-President, declaring what officer shall then act as President, and such officer shall act accordingly, until the disability be removed or a President shall be elected.

Sec. 3. The Secretary of State shall keep the records of the state, and all the records and papers of the legislative body, and all other public records and documents, not belonging to any other department, and shall lay the same when required, before the President or Legislature. He shall attend upon them when required, and perform such other duties as may be enjoined by law.

Sec. 4. The Secretary of the Treasury, or other persons who may by law be charged with the custody of the public monies, shall, before he receive such monies, give bonds to the state, with sufficient sureties, to the acceptance of the Legislature, for the faithful discharge of his trust. He shall exhibit a true account of such monies when required by the President or Legislature; and no monies shall be drawn from the Treasury, but by warrant from the President, in consequence of appropriation made by law.

Sec. 5. All ambassadors and other public Ministers and Consuls, the Secretary of State, of War, of the Treasury, and of the Navy, the Attorney General and Post Master General, shall hold their offices during the pleasure of the President. All Justices of the Peace, Sheriffs, Coroners, Marshals, Clerks of Courts, Registers and Notaries Public, shall hold their offices for the term of two years from the date of their respective Commissions; but may be removed from office within that time by the President at his pleasure; and all other officers whose term of office may not be otherwise limited by law, shall hold their offices during the pleasure of the President.

Sec. 6. Every civil officer may be removed from office by impeachment, for official misconduct. Every such officer may also be removed by the President, upon the address of both branches of the Legislature, stating the particular reasons for his removal.

Sec. 7. No person shall be eligible to the office of President, who has not been a citizen of this Republic for at least five years, and shall not have attained the age of thirty-five years; and who shall not be possessed of unincumbered real estate, of not less value than six hundred dollars.

Sec. 8. The President shall at stated times receive for his services, a compensation which shall neither be increased nor diminished, during the period for which he shall have been elected:—And before he enters on the execution of his office, he shall take the following oath or affirmation:

I do solemnly swear, (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the Republic of Liberia, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the constitution, and enforce the laws of the Republic of Liberia.

ARTICLE IV.—JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Sec. 1. The Judicial Power of this Republic shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and such subordinate Courts as the Legislature may from time to time establish. The Judges of the Supreme Court, and all other Judges of Courts, shall hold their offices during good behaviour; but may be removed

by the President, on the address of two-thirds of both houses for that purpose, or by impeachment and conviction thereon. The Judges shall have salaries established by law, which may be increased, but not diminished during their continuance in office. They shall not receive any other perquisites or emoluments whatever, from parties or others, on account of any duty required of them.

Sec. 2. The Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction in all cases effecting Embassadors or other public Ministers and Consuls, and those to which the Republic shall be a party. In all other cases the Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction, both as to law and fact, with such exceptions, and under such regulations as the Legislature shall from time to time make.

ARTICLE V.—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

Sec. 1. All laws now in force in the Commonwealth of Liberia and not repugnant to this Constitution, shall be in force as the laws of the Republic of Liberia, until they shall be repealed by the Legislature.

Sec. 2. All Judges, Magistrates, and other officers now concerned in the administration of justice in the Commonwealth of Liberia, and all other existing civil and military officers therein, shall continue to hold and discharge their respective offices, in the name and by the authority of the Republic, until others shall be appointed and commissioned in their stead, pursuant to this Constitution.

Sec. 3. All towns and municipal corporations within this Republic, constituted under the laws of the Commonwealth of Liberia, shall retain their existing organizations and privileges, and the respective officers thereof shall remain in office and act under the authority of this Republic, in the same manner, and with the like powers, as they now possess under the laws of said Commonwealth.

Sec. 4. The first election of President, Vice President, Senators and Representatives, shall be held on the first Tuesday in October, in the year of Our Lord Eighteen Hundred and Forty-seven, in the same manner as elections of members of the Council are chosen in the Commonwealth of Liberia, and the votes shall be certified and returned to the Colonial Secretary, and the result of the election shall be ascertained, posted and notified by him as is now by law provided in case of such members of Council.

Sec. 5. All other elections of President, Vice President, Senators and Representatives, shall be held in the respective towns on the first Tuesday in May in every two years, to be held and regulated in such manner as the Legislature may by law prescribe. The returns of votes shall be made to the Secretary of State, who shall open the same, and forthwith issue notices of the election to the persons apparently so elected Senators and Representatives; and all such returns shall be by him laid before the Legislature at its next ensuing session, together with a list of the names of the persons who appear by such returns to have been duly elected Senators and Representatives; and the persons appearing by said returns to be duly elected, shall proceed to organize themselves accordingly, as the Senate and House of Representatives. The votes for President shall be sorted, counted and declared by the House of Representatives. And if no person shall appear to have a majority of such votes, the Senators and Representatives present, shall in Convention, by joint ballot, elect from among the persons having the three highest number of votes, a person to act as President for the ensuing term.

Sec. 6. The Legislature shall assemble once at least in every year, and such meeting shall be on the first Monday in January, unless a different day shall be appointed by law.

Sec. 7. Every Legislator and other officer appointed under this Constitution, shall before he enters upon the duties of his office, take and subscribe a solemn oath or affirmation to support the Constitution of this Republic, and faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of such office. The presiding officer of the Senate shall administer such oath or affirmation to the President, in Convention, of both houses; and the President shall administer the same to the Vice President, to the Senators, and to the Representatives in like manner. When the President is unable to attend, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, may administer the oath or affirmation to him at any place, and also to the Vice President, Senators and Representatives, in Convention. Other officers may take such oath or affirmation before the President, Chief Justice, or any other person who may be designated by law.

Sec. 8. All elections of Public officers shall be made by a majority of the votes, except in cases otherwise regulated by the Constitution, or by law.

Sec. 9. Offices created by this Constitution which the present circumstances of the Republic do not require that they shall be filled, shall not be filled until the Legislature shall deem it necessary.

Sec. 10. The property of which a woman may be possessed at the time of her marriage, and also that of which she may afterwards become possessed, otherwise than by her husband, shall not be held responsible for his debts; whether contracted before or after marriage.

Nor shall the property thus intended to be secured to the woman, be alienated, otherwise than by her free and voluntary consent, and such alienation may be made by her, either by sale, devise or otherwise.

Sec. 11. In all cases in which estates are insolvent, the widow shall be entitled to one-third of the real estate during her natural life, and to one-third of the personal estate, which she shall hold in her own right, subject to alienation by her, by devise or otherwise.

Sec. 12. No person shall be entitled to hold real estate in this Republic unless he be a citizen of the same. Nevertheless this article shall not be construed to apply to Colonization, Missionary, Educational, or other benevolent institutions, so long as the property or estate is applied to its legitimate purposes.

Sec. 13. The great object of forming these Colonies, being to provide a home for the dispersed and oppressed children of Africa, and to regenerate and enlighten this benighted continent; none but persons of color shall be admitted to citizenship in this Republic.

Sec. 14. The purchase of any land by any citizen or citizens from the aborigines of this country, for his, or their own use, or for the benefit of others, as estate or estates in fee simple, shall be considered null and void to all intents and purposes.

Sec. 15. The improvement of the native tribes, and their advancement in the arts of agriculture, and husbandry being a cherished object of this government, it shall be the duty of the President to appoint in each county, some discreet person, whose duty it shall be to make regular and periodical tours through the country, for the purpose of calling the attention of the natives to these wholesome branches of industry, and of instructing them in the same; and the Legislature shall as soon as can conveniently be done, make provisions for these purposes, by the appropriation of money.

Sec. 16. The existing regulations of the American Colonization Society, in the Commonwealth, relative to emigrants, shall remain the same in the Republic, until regulated by compact between the Society and the Republic; nevertheless, the Legislature shall make no law prohibiting emigration. And it shall be among the first duties of the Legislature, to take measures

to arrange the future relations between the American Colonization Society and this Republic.

Sec. 17. This Constitution may be altered whenever two-thirds of both branches of the Legislature shall deem it necessary. In which case the alterations or amendments, shall first be considered and approved by the Legislature, by the concurrence of two-thirds of the members of each branch, and afterwards by them submitted to the people, and adopted by two-thirds of all the electors at the next biennial meeting for the election of Senators and Representatives.

Done in CONVENTION, at Monrovia, in the County of Montserrado, by the unanimous consent of the people of the Commonwealth of Liberia, this twenty-sixth day of July, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-seven, and of the REPUBLIC the First. In witness whereof we have hereto set our names.

S. BENEDICT, *President*.
J. N. LEWIS,
H. TEAGE,
BEVERLY R. WILSON,
ELIJAH JOHNSON,
J. B. GRIPON.

Montserado
County.

JOHN DAY,	}	<i>Grand Bassa</i>
A. W. GARDNER,		
AMOS HERRING,		
EPHRAIM TITLER,		
R. E. MURRAY,		<i>Sinoe.</i>

J. W. PROUT,
Secretary of Convention.

Monrovia, July 29th, 1847.

(From Africa's Luminary of July 14th.)

LIBERIA PACKET.

Great has been the disappointment in Liberia at the non-arrival of the Packet at the time she was due. For some years much has been said and written on the importance of a regular communication being kept up between the United States and Liberia; and great was the rejoicing when information reached us that this desideratum was about to be realized. The fine vessel at length arrived with conveniences nearly equal to a London Packet, inspiring all with confidence. We were assured she would arrive as near the 25th of June and December each year as might be. An unusual number therefore ordered supplies by her. Expecting them at or about the appointed time, favorable offers of supplies were declined, and everything disposed of which was not required for immediate use.

We were confidently expecting paper on which to print our little Luminary, books, clothing, &c. &c. for our schools; material for finishing our (native) Female Academy and a full supply of intelligence from America for ourselves, all of which are now greatly needed. But instead of the Packet the following information reached us, by the kindness of a gentleman, who went home in her, expecting to return by the same vessel. "The Liberia Packet, on account of a sum of money, not to be found from a voyage to Africa, has concluded that *Philanthropy* requires that she should take provisions to Havre, France; therefore she will not make her next voyage to Liberia."

We cannot but express our surprise at finding the above paragraph in the *Luminary*. The sneer contained in the communication of "a *gentleman* who went home in her," comes with an ill grace, endorsed by the editor of a *missionary* paper. As we have not the honor of knowing the GENTLEMAN, we must of course hold the editor responsible for the falsity of the insinuation. The writer has been pleased to personify the *Liberia Packet*, and says she

"has concluded that *Philanthropy* requires she should take provisions to Havre." It can only be inferred from the above statement, that the owners or the Agent of the Packet Co. had alledged, that *Philanthropy* induced them to send the vessel to Havre. Now this is entirely gratuitous, unwarranted and not true. The Agent of the Chesapeake and L. T. Co. stated individually to the passengers who came home in the Packet, and also to the public through the columns of this Journal, that the Packet had cost some three thousand dollars more than was expected, that, though all efforts had been made, additional subscriptions of stock to meet this increase of expense could not be obtained, that *no* emigrants offered for the colonies through either Society, that few, very few orders for freight had been received from the colonists, that *consequently*, for want of funds, to meet the actual liabilities of the Co. the Packet must be sent on a freighting voyage to some other port. Such are the facts, and they were at the time made public—and must have been known to the gentleman.

NOTICE OF THE LIBERIA PACKET IN AN ENGLISH PAPER.

We have often had occasion to speak in no favourable terms of the policy of the British Government in transporting native Africans to the West Indies to cultivate their lands. We find a reference to the same subject in "The Colonial Intelligencer, or Aborigines' Friend," for April last, published in London, and also a favourable comparison of the policy of the American Colonization Society's efforts for the good of Africa. We would call attention to the last sentence, particularly, of the following paragraph :

EMIGRATION FROM THE COAST OF AFRICA TO THE WEST INDIES.

The Aborigines' Protection Society, in their Address to Lord Grey, deprecated the encouragement which Government proposed to offer to the emigration of African laborers to the West Indies. They were apprehensive that such a course would be in itself a modification of the slave trade, and that it would facilitate and sanction the perpetuation of the old traffic by other countries, who will be led to doubt either the policy or sincerity of the efforts which England has so long been making for its suppression. We have now to express our deep regret that Government has resolved to employ a steamer, bearing the ominous name of the "*Scourge*," in making an experiment of the emigration project upon the Kroo coast. Whilst England is taking this pernicious step, the African Colonization Society of America has just launched a first-rate vessel of its own, for the purpose of conveying well-selected voluntary emigrants, colored persons possessed of more or less education, to the State of Liberia, which is peaceably extending its limits, and appears to be on the point of assuming its independence.

AFRICA.

Thirty years ago, and how hopeless appeared the condition of Africa, when the possibility of planting a Colony upon its shores was put to the test.

It was a bold and a glorious idea, and those with whom it originated, and who banded themselves together that they might carry it into execution, deserve to be remembered, and they will be remembered, as the benefactors of the human race.

With the history of the colonization of this our own country, before them,

and in view of the difficulties connected with the undertaking, we are constrained to admire the bold and dauntless spirit by which they were animated.

If the enterprize had remained unattended to the present day, there are few, we believe, who would be willing to hazard their means or their reputation for sanity upon a project so apparently hopeless; but those were men of indomitable courage and genuine philanthropy, connected with calculating prudence and far-seeing wisdom.

The results, as already arrived at, are greater than the most sanguine had any right to expect, and will compare advantageously with those of any attempt at colonization which can be adduced. It is true, that we some times hear the inquiry uttered by way of disparagement—"What has been done?" but a little investigation, conducted fairly, would be very likely to change the disparaging inquiry into an exclamation of wonder.

Briefly we may point to some of the results. And first, a self-sustaining colony, of four thousand souls, exists in a flourishing condition on the Western coast of Africa, enjoying a Republican form of government, in friendly alliance with one hundred thousand natives, over whom a powerful and Christian influence is exerted, exclusive of fifteen thousand who own direct subjection to the laws of the colony.

The territory extends for three hundred miles along the coast, and reaches far back into the interior. Twenty-three churches, with fifteen hundred communicants, and twenty schools, numbering about one thousand pupils, attest the attention of the colonists to the subject of education and religion.

None but the uninformed will think lightly of these results. They are wonderful in view of the time and money, and efforts expended, and of the obstacles that opposed themselves.

The past has been but the infancy of the colony, it is from this point that we may look for the developments of a thriving and healthy youth, which may give assurance that it will be succeeded by vigorous manhood.

The four thousand now in the colony, it is fair to calculate, have at least twenty thousand relatives and friends in this country, who feel strongly drawn towards Africa, and who would follow their friends thither if they could do it. But, further, the mists of error which have hitherto prevented the free coloured population of our land from appreciating the immense advantages which Liberia presents for their acceptance, are rapidly passing away, and there are indications, not to be mistaken, that the cause of Colonization and of Truth is about to enjoy a signal triumph, and that our free coloured people are beginning to open their eyes, and to discern who are their true friends.

Already have they commenced taking proper action in the case. In some instances they have already appointed agents of their own selection, to visit the Colony, and report the result of their observations, and this example is being imitated, and, as a consequence, correct information on which they can and will rely, will be speedily disseminated, and hence the tide of emigration will set towards Africa with a power, the rapidity of which is the only thing to be dreaded, lest the growth of the colony henceforward be too rapid.

Five years hence, and the population will most probably be doubled, and soon every enterprising, educated coloured man now in this country, not providentially detained, will be on his way to Liberia, and those will mourn who are necessarily left behind.

And then the grand experiment which is in progress among ourselves, will be repeated on the other side of the Atlantic, and our confident expectation, and fond hope is, that it may prove abundantly successful.

Liberia Advocate.

EFFECTS OF COLONIZATION.—The effects of Colonization on the condition of Africa, are beginning to manifest themselves, and though it may be yet a long time before the line of settlement will be so extended as effectually to prevent the exportation of slaves, yet the success of Colonization thus far encourages the belief, that it may yet become one of the most important instruments for the accomplishment of this philanthropic purpose. And if the negotiations recently opened between Great Britain and France, for a modification of the treaty for the suppression of the slave-trade, should result, as is expected, in “the adoption of efficacious and direct measures against the sovereigns of the coast of Africa, who are known for openly carrying on the trade,”—the Colonization plan must at once be found to be of incalculable benefit in carrying out and enforcing the designs of these two governments, and thus it may realize some of its triumphs at a much earlier day, than the most sanguine have contemplated.

But there is another aspect of the beneficial effects of Colonization, even more important than that just mentioned; we mean that which regards its influence on the continent of Africa itself; its power to enlighten and humanize, to elevate and Christianize its semi-barbarian hordes. Africa, it must be remembered, is, probably, the greatest slave-trafficking country in the world. And a truly enlarged philanthropy will be content, it seems to us, with nothing short of the regeneration of the very heart of Africa itself. At least it will feel bound heartily to co-operate in all measures, which, under the Providence of God, give any good promise of so important a moral revolution.—*Chr. Register.*

SLAVE TRADE ON THE EASTERN COAST OF AFRICA.—It appears by the London Times, that the British government has recently concluded a series of treaties with certain Arab Princes or Sheiks, with a view to secure the aid of their governments in preventing the exportation of slaves from the African coast, particularly in the Persian Gulf. The death-blow has already been given to the traffic in the Indian Archipelago, where the vessels in use are much more efficient than the Arabian Slavers, and the opposition, of course, much more formidable. It may be inferred, therefore, that the plan of suppressing the traffic in the Persian Gulf, will be easily successful.—*Chr. Register.*

SLAVE TRADE ON THE WEST COAST.—The London Times speaks despondingly of the prospect of any early termination of the slave trade on the West Coast of Africa. It speaks thus:

“Not all the efforts of the British, French or American Cruisers will suffice to destroy the slave-trade, until by the law of Brazil and the slave-holding States of the North American Union, the possession of a slave is constituted a crime.” * * * * “It is vain to expect, that as long as slavery exists as one of the recognized institutions of these countries, the trade will ever be brought effectually to a conclusion. As long as there is a slave market, so long there will be a slave ship, and slaves to lade her.”

There is undoubtedly much in the history of the slave-trade for a few years past, to confirm this opinion of the Times. The opinion seems to have been uttered, however, without regard to the effects of colonization.

ADVERTISEMENT OF THE CHESAPEAKE AND LIBERIA TRADING COMPANY.

This company exists under a charter from the State of Maryland. As its name implies, its object is the establishment of commercial intercourse between the ports of the Chesapeake, viz: Baltimore and Norfolk, and the various Liberia colonies. It has a cash capital paid in of \$20,000, with liberty to extend the same to \$100,000. Over one-fifth of the stock is now owned by colored people in this country and in Liberia, the remainder by whites, with the condition annexed, that they shall transfer the same to any colored persons demanding it, at its fair value. The company now own one vessel, the Liberia Packet, a barque of 331 tons, officered and manned by colored men, with the exception of the master, whose place will be filled by a colored man as soon as one suitable can be obtained. The company have formed an arrangement or contract with the Maryland and with the American Colonization Societies, to take such freight and emigrants as they may offer, on terms depending upon the amount offered, the said societies guaranteeing a certain amount of freight and number of passengers per annum. The said societies therefore, are always to have the preference over any other parties, in case the freight offered exceeds the capacity of the vessel. The company also proposes to ship goods and merchandise on its own account, when the capacity of the vessel is not required to transport the passengers and freight of the societies. It proposes to take both cabin and steerage passengers to and from the colonies, to fill all orders for goods given by colonists, to transact through its agent any commission business for the colonists or others residing on the coast, to take out or bring back any freight, packages or letters that may be offered, always reserving the right to refuse merchandise out, in case the capacity of the vessel is desired by the Colonization Societies or the company.

The Packet will be kept constantly running between the Chesapeake and the Colonies, and early notice will be given through this Journal of the time of her sailing.

TERMS:

FOR CABIN PASSAGE,—(either way)	\$100 00
FOR STEERAGE “ “ “ “	40 00
FOR FREIGHT OUT, per cubic foot for measured goods,	30
per barrel,	1 50
for metal, per ton,	10 00
FOR FREIGHT HOME,—per ton for camwood,	10 00
for palm oil, per gallon, or capacity of casks,	04
for other packages, per cubic foot,	25

Passage and freight, when not consigned to the Agent, payable in advance.

All communications respecting the Packet or the business of the Company, must be addressed to

DR. JAMES HALL,

Managing Agent, P. O. Building, Balto.

TERMS.

This Journal is published Monthly, and is furnished to Subscribers at \$1 per year, whether sent by mail or otherwise. All profits arising from its publication are applied to advance the general purposes of the society.

☞ All Communications intended for the Maryland Colonization Journal, or on business of the Society, should be addressed to Dr. JAMES HALL, General Agent, Colonization Rooms, Post Office Building.

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